

could not yield obedience without a breach of their oaths.¹ Macaulay misrepresents the whole position and makes his view seem plausible by a number of small perversions of the facts.

Curiously enough, there is another instance of a similar nature. King James was anxious to persuade \Vil!:ani Kiffin, a leader amongst the Baptists, to accept the post of alderman of London, and according to Macaulay employed Penn to persuade him.² On the contrary, Kifnn says that he used all the means at his disposal to be excused, and amongst others' sought Penn's assistance.³

Further charges against Penn are that he conspired against William III, sent information to James 11 in France, and urged him to invade England. The evidence adduced is very slight, and of very little value, but instead of being simply stated for what it is worth, it is rhetorically exaggerated and supported by many misstatements of minor facts.

Macaulay's original conception of Penn's character prevents him from soberly appreciating the value of evidence or correctly stating it. Having come to the conclusion that Penn was the accomplice of James in a design against the liberties of England during 1686-1687, he was incapable of seeing any facts which told against his view. Penn's attitude to toleration and his sympathy with any attempt to promote it is fully explained in a letter written

from Philadelphia to the Duke of Ormonde in January 1683.

Of all that falls under thy administration, in the love of God and the sincere affection of a friend, lett me prevale with the to avoide troubling conscientious and quiet liveing

¹ Thomas Ciarkson, Memoirs of **William** Penn (1849), p. 182.

²II, 878-80 (vii),

³ Remarkable Passages *in* the Life of William Kiffin (iS23), p. 85.